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ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF UNCTAD IN 1994

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

1. This note contains some preliminary thoughts on a possible set of events to be organized in the course of 1994 in order to observe the thirtieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in a manner befitting the role and achievements of the organization. The Trade and Development Board, as it did on the occasion of the twentieth and twenty-fifth anniversaries, will be invited to contribute to the celebration of the anniversary.

2. On the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of UNCTAD, the Board, at the first part of its thirty-sixth session, held a special commemorative plenary meeting and by resolution 376 (XXXVI) of 13 October 1989 adopted a Declaration which was subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly at a special commemorative session. In view of the evolution of the organization since then and, in particular, of the new orientations provided by UNCTAD VIII, the celebration of the thirtieth anniversary is an opportunity to develop forward-looking approaches to the development dialogue and the role of UNCTAD in that context.

3. The thirtieth anniversary will also coincide with a mid-term review of the progress in the implementation of the decisions and new orientations provided for by UNCTAD VIII. The Ad hoc working groups established by the Conference and by the Board will have completed, or be in a process of completing their work, while the Standing Committees will have reached the half-way mark. The celebration will thus provide an opportunity to take stock of their achievements and their contribution to consensus building on major development issues, and also to draw lessons from the experience of the new methods of work in order to adapt and strengthen them further, as appropriate, in order to give effect to the new partnership for development enshrined in the Cartagena Commitment.

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4. The anniversary could be marked by a set of events, organized by the secretariat in the course of 1994, culminating in a ceremony, if Governments so decide, during the autumn session of the Trade and Development Board. Within the limit of its available human and financial resources, the secretariat could initiate a certain number of activities among those described below. These could be significantly strengthened if States members of UNCTAD decided on common and individual complementary initiatives.

A. Events which might be organized by the secretariat of UNCTAD

5. In the course of 1994, the set of events to be organized by the secretariat could include :

a. Organizing the 1994 **Raul Prebisch lecture** around a forward-looking theme at the spring 1994 session of the Board.

b. Convening a one-day **symposium** close to the autumn session of the Board in 1994 at which eminent panelists would be asked to address selected themes on the development agenda and the role of UNCTAD. The precise themes would be decided in light of the evolution of the world economy and international economic cooperation.

c. Organizing a special event with non-governmental actors including NGOs, the enterprise sector, trade unions and academics, hosted by an interested State member.

d. Producing a **booklet** on the new orientations and role of UNCTAD in furthering the development dialogue since UNCTAD VIII, starting with a brief historical background.

e. Producing a special issue of the UNCTAD **Bulletin**, to include an evaluation of UNCTAD's new orientations and activities - in the light of the work carried out by the Board, the Standing Committees and the Ad hoc Working Groups.

f. Producing a special issue of the **UNCTAD Review** to include academic essays on themes to be decided. A number of eminent economists would be requested to make contributions to the Review.

g. Producing a **statistical pocket book**.

h. Organizing a **special exhibition** to coincide with the Board's autumn celebration of the event.

i. Preparing a **film** on UNCTAD in the framework of AZIMUTHS programme. The film could be presented to delegates and the press at a special viewing during the Board's celebrations.

j. Producing an **UNCTAD poster** containing a definitive slogan/ design. Post cards/greeting cards and thirtieth anniversary stickers would carry the same design.

k. Issuing a **commemorative stamp** 1964-1994. The United Nations Postal Administration at Headquarters has already agreed to its issuance in autumn 1994.

l. Undertaking activities in close collaboration with the press and the media.

m. Organizing an internal seminar with the participation of staff on UNCTAD's future orientations.

B. Participation and support from members States

6. The above-listed activities would benefit greatly from the direct and indirect support of States members of UNCTAD.

7. A collective initiative similar to that taken by Governments on UNCTAD's twentieth and twenty-fifth anniversaries, i.e. a special meeting at the autumn session of the Trade and Development Board, could be envisaged. The Board may wish to adopt on this occasion a Declaration to mark the thirtieth anniversary of UNCTAD . This meeting could conclude the activities organized to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary and coincide with a special viewing of the film prepared on UNCTAD.

8. Through actions taken at the national level, member Governments could contribute in helping to make UNCTAD's activities known to the general public. In this connection the UNCTAD secretariat could arrange for contacts and joint activities between the international and national media, including the broadcast of radio programmes.

9. Member Governments are also encouraged to take initiatives at the national level, including with regard to the dissemination of the special publications mentioned above and the broadcasting of the film. Special events could be organized by national United Nations associations and universities, etc.

10. As all the above activities cannot be accommodated within existing budgetary resources, it is suggested that a special trust fund be established for this purpose to which States members would be requested to contribute.

11. The Board may wish to consider the above suggestions, including the idea of holding a commemorative meeting during the first part of its forty-first session. United Nations will be celebrating its fiftieth anniversary in 1995, the outcome of U s celebrations of its thirtieth anniversary as the focal point in the United Nati the integrated treatment of development issues - could be fed into that event as a pa the system-wide contribution thereto.